



Anticoagulants Classification

1. Parenteral Anticoagulants

A. Indirect Anticoagulants

1. Unfractionated Heparin (UFH)

- **Indications:**
 - Treatment and prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE)
 - Acute coronary syndrome (ACS)
 - Dialysis
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding
 - Severe thrombocytopenia (low platelet count)
 - History of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)
- **Notes:**
 - Requires monitoring with activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT).

- Rapid onset and reversal possible with protamine sulfate.

2. Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH)

- **Examples:** Enoxaparin (Lovenox), Dalteparin (Fragmin)
- **Indications:**
 - Treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE)
 - Prophylaxis in patients undergoing surgery or immobility
 - Managing ACS
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding
 - Severe renal impairment (caution with dosages)
 - History of HIT
- **Notes:**
 - More predictable anticoagulant response than UFH.
 - Usually does not require routine monitoring.

3. Fondaparinux

- **Indications:**
 - Prophylaxis of DVT in post-surgical patients
 - Treatment of DVT and PE (in combination with warfarin)
 - Acute coronary syndrome
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding
 - Severe renal impairment
 - Body weight < 50 kg (caution due to risk of insufficient dosing)
- **Notes:**
 - Does not require monitoring.
 - Reversal is challenging; usually only supportive measures.

B. Direct Anticoagulants

1. Thrombin Inhibitors

- **Examples:** Bivalirudin, Dabigatran, Argatroban
- **Indications:**
 - Bivalirudin: Used in percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI).

- Argatroban: Used in patients with HIT or those undergoing PCI.
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding
 - Severe renal impairment (particularly with dabigatran)
- **Notes:**
 - Bivalirudin has a low risk of bleeding compared to UFH.

2. Factor Xa Inhibitors

- **Example:** Otamixaban (investigational), Edoxaban, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban
- **Indications:**
 - Rivaroxaban and Apixaban: Prevention and treatment of DVT and PE, stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation.
 - Edoxaban: Similar indications as above.
 - Otamixaban: Under study for ACS.
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding
 - Severe renal disease (caution advised with all except when dosing is adjusted)
- **Notes:**
 - Minimal/no need for monitoring.
 - No specific reversal agent for most; however, Andexanet alfa is available for factor Xa inhibitors.

2. Oral Anticoagulants

A. Indirect Anticoagulants

1. Vitamin K Antagonists (VKAs)

- **Example:** Warfarin (Coumadin)
- **Indications:**
 - Atrial fibrillation (AF) to prevent stroke
 - Treatment and prophylaxis of DVT and PE
 - Mechanical heart valve management
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding

- Pregnancy (can cause teratogenic effects)
- **Notes:**
 - Requires regular INR monitoring.
 - Affected by dietary vitamin K; patients need dietary counseling.

B. Direct Anticoagulants

1. Thrombin Inhibitors

- **Example:** Dabigatran
- **Indications:**
 - Prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in AF
 - Treatment of DVT and PE
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding
 - Mechanical heart valves (not recommended)
- **Notes:**
 - An antidote, idarucizumab, is available for emergency reversal.

2. Factor Xa Inhibitors

- **Examples:** Rivaroxaban, Apixaban, Edoxaban
- **Indications:**
 - Prevention of stroke in AF
 - Treatment and prevention of DVT and PE
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding
 - Severe renal impairment (especially caution for edoxaban)
- **Notes:**
 - Minimal monitoring required; however, should educate the patient about signs of bleeding.
 - Rivaroxaban is taken with food for effective absorption, while apixaban's timing is flexible

Classification of antiplatelet drugs

- **Arachidonic acid pathway inhibitors**
e.g. **Aspirin**
- **ADP pathway inhibitors**
e.g. **Ticlopidine - Clopidogrel**
- **Phosphodiesterase inhibitors**
e.g. **Dipyridamole**
- **Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors**
e.g. **Abciximab – Eptifibatide -Tirofiban**



Classification of Antiplatelet Drugs

1. Arachidonic Acid Pathway Inhibitors

- **Example: Aspirin**
 - **Mechanism:** Inhibits cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1), reducing thromboxane A2 production, which is essential for platelet aggregation.
 - **Indications:**
 - Primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular events (e.g., myocardial infarction, stroke).
 - Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) management.
 - **Contraindications:**
 - Active gastrointestinal bleeding.
 - Severe hypersensitivity to aspirin or NSAIDs.
 - **Clinical Notes:**
 - Low-dose aspirin (75-100 mg daily) is effective for cardiovascular protection.

- Patients may require gastroprotective agents to mitigate gastrointestinal side effects.

2. ADP Pathway Inhibitors

- **Examples: Clopidogrel, Ticlopidine**
 - **Mechanism:** Inhibit the P2Y₁₂ receptor on platelets, preventing activation and aggregation.
 - **Indications:**
 - Clopidogrel: Used for secondary prevention of atherothrombotic events, ACS, and after PCI.
 - Ticlopidine: Less commonly used due to side effects; indicated for stroke prevention.
 - **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding.
 - History of hypersensitivity to the drug.
 - **Clinical Notes:**
 - Clopidogrel is a prodrug and may have variable efficacy due to genetic polymorphisms affecting metabolism.
 - Dual antiplatelet therapy (DAPT) with aspirin is often recommended after stent placement.

3. Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors

- **Example: Dipyridamole**
 - **Mechanism:** Inhibits phosphodiesterase, leading to increased levels of cyclic AMP in platelets, which inhibits aggregation.
 - **Indications:**
 - Used in combination with aspirin for secondary prevention of stroke.
 - May be used in patients with peripheral vascular disease.
 - **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding.
 - Severe hypotension or unstable angina.
 - **Clinical Notes:**
 - Often used in combination with aspirin for enhanced antiplatelet effect.

4. Glycoprotein IIb/IIIa Inhibitors

- **Examples: Abciximab, Eptifibatide, Tirofiban**
 - **Mechanism:** Block the glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor on activated platelets, preventing fibrinogen binding and platelet aggregation.
 - **Indications:**

- Used in high-risk patients undergoing PCI and in ACS management.
- **Contraindications:**
 - Active bleeding.
 - History of stroke or major surgery within the past 30 days.
- **Clinical Notes:**
 - Abciximab has a longer duration of action and is typically used in a hospital setting.
 - Eptifibatide and tirofiban are shorter-acting and can be used in outpatient settings.



Classification of Thrombolytic Drugs

Generation of Thrombolytic Drug	Fibrin Specific	Non-Fibrin Specific
First Generation	--	Urokinase *
	--	Streptokinase *
Second Generation	Recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) *	Pro-urokinase (scum-PA) *
	Alteplase	Sk-plasminogen activating complex (APSAC) *

Details of Thrombolytic Agents

1. First Generation Thrombolytics

- **Urokinase:**

- **Mechanism:** Activates plasminogen to plasmin, leading to fibrin degradation.
 - **Indications:** Used for the treatment of pulmonary embolism and acute myocardial infarction.
 - **Notes:** Less fibrin-specific, which may lead to systemic fibrinolysis and increased bleeding risk.
- **Streptokinase:**
 - **Mechanism:** Forms a complex with plasminogen, converting it to plasmin.
 - **Indications:** Used in acute myocardial infarction and severe deep vein thrombosis.
 - **Notes:** Can induce allergic reactions; not fibrin-specific, leading to potential bleeding complications.

2. Second Generation Thrombolytics

- **Recombinant Tissue Plasminogen Activator (t-PA):**
 - **Example: Alteplase**
 - **Mechanism:** Fibrin-specific; preferentially activates plasminogen bound to fibrin in clots.
 - **Indications:** First-line treatment for acute ischemic stroke, myocardial infarction, and massive pulmonary embolism.
 - **Notes:** Lower risk of systemic bleeding compared to first-generation agents.
- **Pro-Urokinase (scum-PA):**
 - **Mechanism:** Similar to urokinase but with improved fibrin specificity.
 - **Indications:** Used in specific thrombotic conditions.
- **Sk-Plasminogen Activating Complex (APSAC):**
 - **Mechanism:** A complex that activates plasminogen to plasmin.
 - **Indications:** Used in acute myocardial infarction.

